

Appendix A: The Sentinel Network



www.consumer.gov/idtheft

The Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse was launched in November 1999 and is the sole national repository of consumer complaints about identity theft. The Clearinghouse provides specific investigative material for law enforcement and larger, trend-based information providing insight to both private and public sector partners on ways to reduce the incidence of identity theft. Information in the Clearinghouse is available to law enforcement members via Consumer Sentinel, the secured, password-protected government Web site. This access enables law enforcers to readily and easily spot identity theft problems in their own backyards, and to coordinate with other law enforcement officers where the data reveals common schemes or perpetrators.



www.econsumer.gov

Econsumer.gov was created in April 2001 as a joint effort involving thirteen countries to gather and share cross-border e-commerce complaints in order to respond to the challenges of multinational Internet fraud, and enhance consumer confidence in e-commerce. The multilingual public Web site provides general information about consumer protection in all countries that belong to the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (formerly called the International Marketing Supervision Network), contact information for consumer protection authorities in those countries, and an online complaint form. All information is available in English, French, German, and Spanish. Using the existing Consumer Sentinel network, the incoming complaints will be shared through the government Web site with participating consumer protection law enforcers.



www.consumer.gov/military

Military Sentinel, which was established in September 2002, is a project of the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Defense to identify and target consumer protection issues that affect members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. Military Sentinel also provides a gateway to consumer education materials covering a wide range of consumer protection issues, such as auto leasing, identity theft, and work-at-home scams. Members of the United States Armed Forces are able to enter complaints directly into Consumer Sentinel. Through Consumer Sentinel, the government password-protected Web site, this information can be used by law enforcement agencies, members of the JAG staff, and others in the Department of Defense to help protect armed services members and their families from consumer protection-related problems.